

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A light shielding blade material for use in an optical apparatus, comprising:

a substrate composed of a plastic film having a pair of surfaces opposed to each other, said substrate having no reinforcing fibers;

a shield coating being capable of blocking an incident light and being formed on each surface of the substrate, the shield coating being composed of a paint resin containing a carbon black and having no reinforcing fibers;

a reinforcement member disposed on each shield coating, the reinforcement member being composed of a thermosetting resin prepreg sheet reinforced with fibers arranged in an alignment direction, and hardened to laminate with the substrate through the shield coating, the thermosetting resin prepreg sheet containing no carbon black; and

a lubricant coating having a black appearance and a lubricity sufficient to suppress a surface friction, the lubricant coating being formed on each reinforcement member such that the lubricant coating and the shield coating are separated from each other by the reinforcement member.

2. (Previously presented) The light shielding blade material according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcement member contains fibers aligned in parallel to fibers contained in the other reinforcement member, and wherein the substrate is composed of a plastic film being stretched bidirectionally in primary and secondary directions orthogonal to each other and being disposed relative to the reinforcement member such that the primary direction of the plastic film can be freely set relative to the alignment direction of the fibers.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The light shielding blade material according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcement member is reinforced with polyparaphenylene benzobisoxazole fibers.

5. (Original) The light shielding blade material according to claim 1, wherein the

reinforcement member is reinforced with polyparaphenylene benzobisoxazole fibers.

6. (Previously presented) The light shielding blade material according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a plastic film selected from one of the group consisting of a polyethylene terephthalate film, a polyethylene naphthalate film, and an aramid film, the plastic film being free of a carbon black and having an optical density of zero, or the plastic film being kneaded with a carbon black and having an optical density of 8 or less.

7. (Original) The light shielding blade material according to claim 1, wherein each shield coating contains 20 to 40% by weight of a carbon black, such that the sum of an optical density of one shield coating and an optical density of the substrate is 6 or more, and a total optical density of a layer structure is 12 or more, including the substrate, both of the shield coatings, both of the reinforcement members and both of the lubricant coatings.